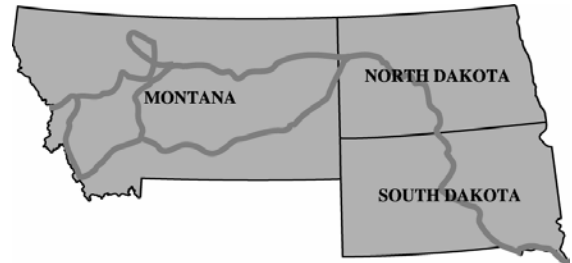




Lewis and Clark Bicentennial

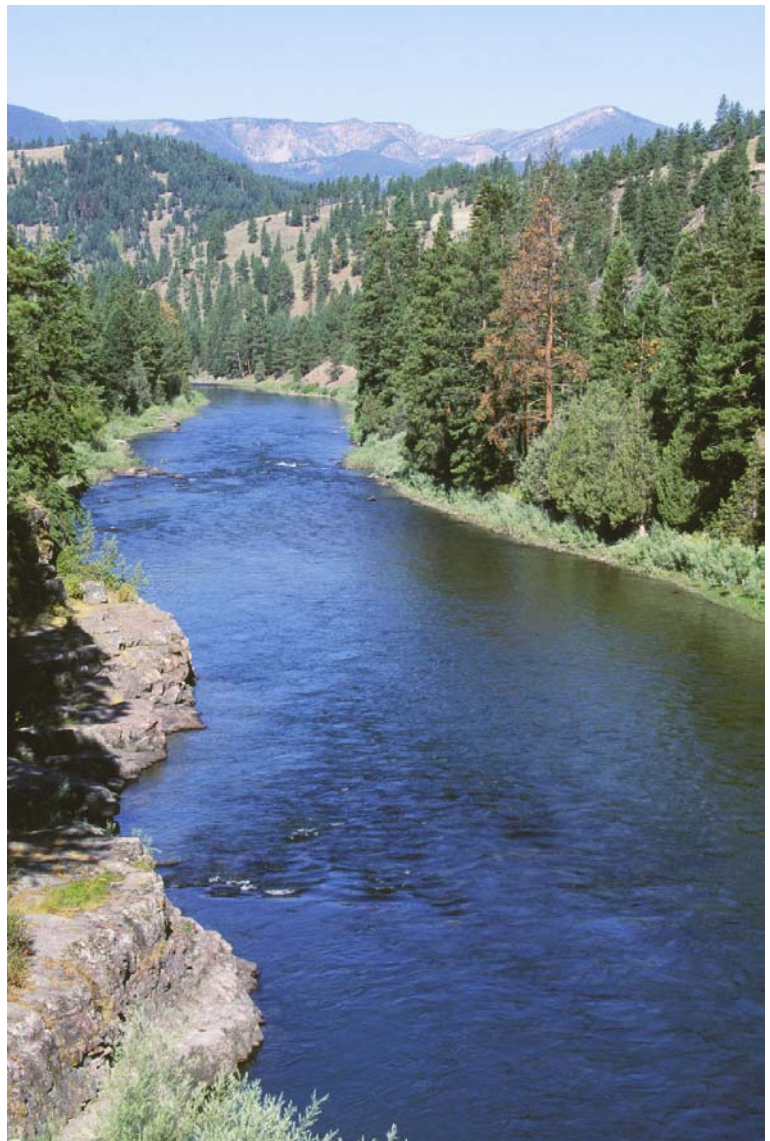
WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- The 200th Anniversary of the Lewis and Clark (L&C) Expedition is 2003-2006.
- The L&C Bicentennial is a national initiative that spans multiple jurisdictions and involves local communities, tribal governments and private organizations.
- The Bicentennial is expected to draw enthusiasts from across the country and abroad, placing significant pressure on public lands along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (NHT).
- Because of the significant land base managed by Montana BLM, the Bicentennial is an incredible opportunity for our agency to increase public awareness about BLM, natural resources and stewardship.
- Visitors to public lands along the L&C NHT will leave with an impression of how public lands are managed. All phases of our planning will deliver powerful messages to the visiting public.



HOW DID WE GET THERE?

- BLM manages about 330 miles of land along the L&C NHT—more than any other federal land-managing agency. Of the 330 BLM miles, 310 are in Montana and include nationally significant segments such as Pompeys Pillar and the Upper Missouri River Breaks national monuments.
- Montana BLM initiated planning efforts in 1996 to prepare for the increased visitation and publicity. From that effort we developed a strategy plan involving the following key components: Trail Protection/Restoration; Enhancing the Visitor's Experience, American Indian Involvement, and Partnerships.
- The strategy identifies projects and opportunities that are compatible with our mission and responsive to local needs.



WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

- In order to be ready, we need to complete infrastructure projects before the Bicentennial begins.
- We need adequate resources to ensure safety, security, and protection on-the-ground.
- We have developed a tiered (priority) system to manage the program effectively. Top tier projects would cost about \$7 million (excluding construction costs for Pompeys Pillar and Fort Benton interpretive centers) and will receive priority attention. Second tier projects would cost about \$10 million and will be initiated if additional support becomes available.
- We received \$1.67 million for L&C Bicentennial activities in FY02. This funding level is not enough to implement tier 1 projects.
- Funding levels for our two monuments, which are integral parts of the L&C NHT, are not adequate; this further constrains our L&C efforts for other travel segments.
- We are seeking alternative funding opportunities for the entire program through partnerships with other agencies and private organizations.



WHO ELSE IS CONCERNED?

- The Corps of Discovery spent more travel time in Montana than in any other state and recent visitor projection surveys indicate that thousands will retrace its footsteps.
- Key partners include Montana L&C Bicentennial Commission; National L&C Bicentennial Commission; and the National L&C Trail Heritage Foundation.
- Local economies will benefit from increased tourism. However, many challenges are associated with increased visitation to public lands. BLM needs to be prepared.
- BLM will continue to work with our partners to address resource needs to provide quality, safe visitor experiences and maintain the integrity of the trail.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Dick Fichtler, L&C Bicentennial Coordinator, (406) 329-3884; or visit our website at <http://www.mt.blm.gov/lewisandclark/index.html>.

